ACT V: CIRCUS * MASARU AT THE CIRCUS

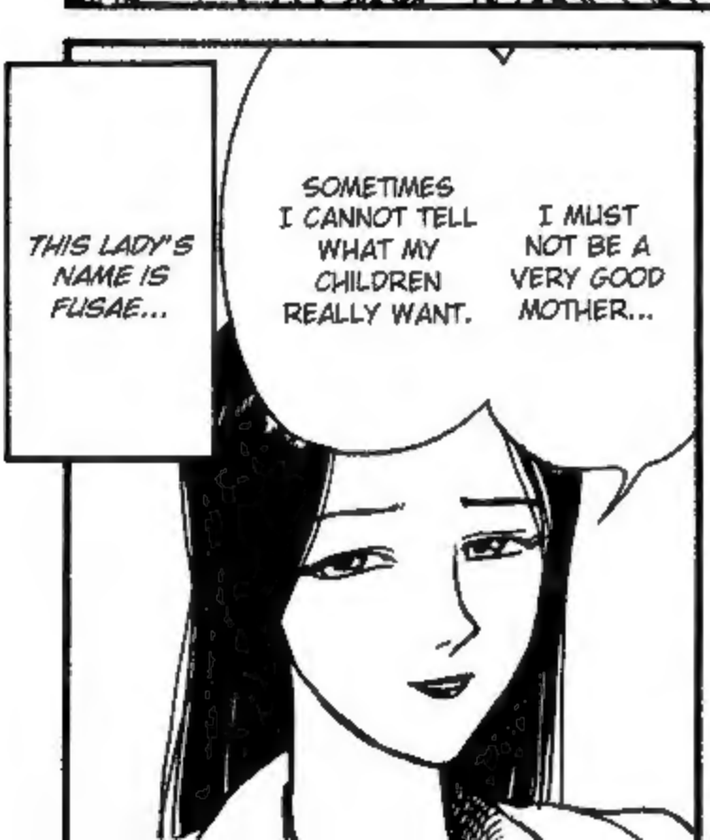
"FIRST PART"

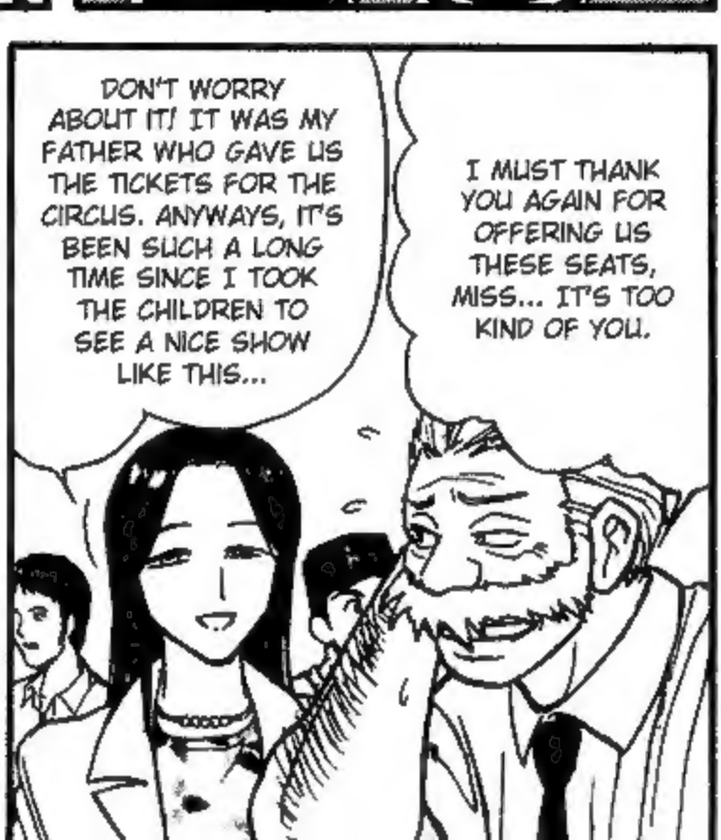
WELCOME, EVERYONE!
THE STRAW CIRCUS IS FINALLY HERE!
TADAAN
HA HA HA
Straw Circus
WELCOME TO THE STRAW CIRCUS
WE WILL BE STARTING SOON!
WOW!
OUR UNIQUE SHOW WILL PLEASE CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE!

KOJI, YUMI, IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME, TOO?
...AND YOU WERE PLANNING TO JOIN OUR GROUP?!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A REAL CIRCUS SHOW.

HI!
TODAY, WE'VE COME TO WATCH A SHOW PUT ON BY A BIG CIRCUS!
LOOK! THERE'S A GIRAFFE!
LET'S GO SEE IT!

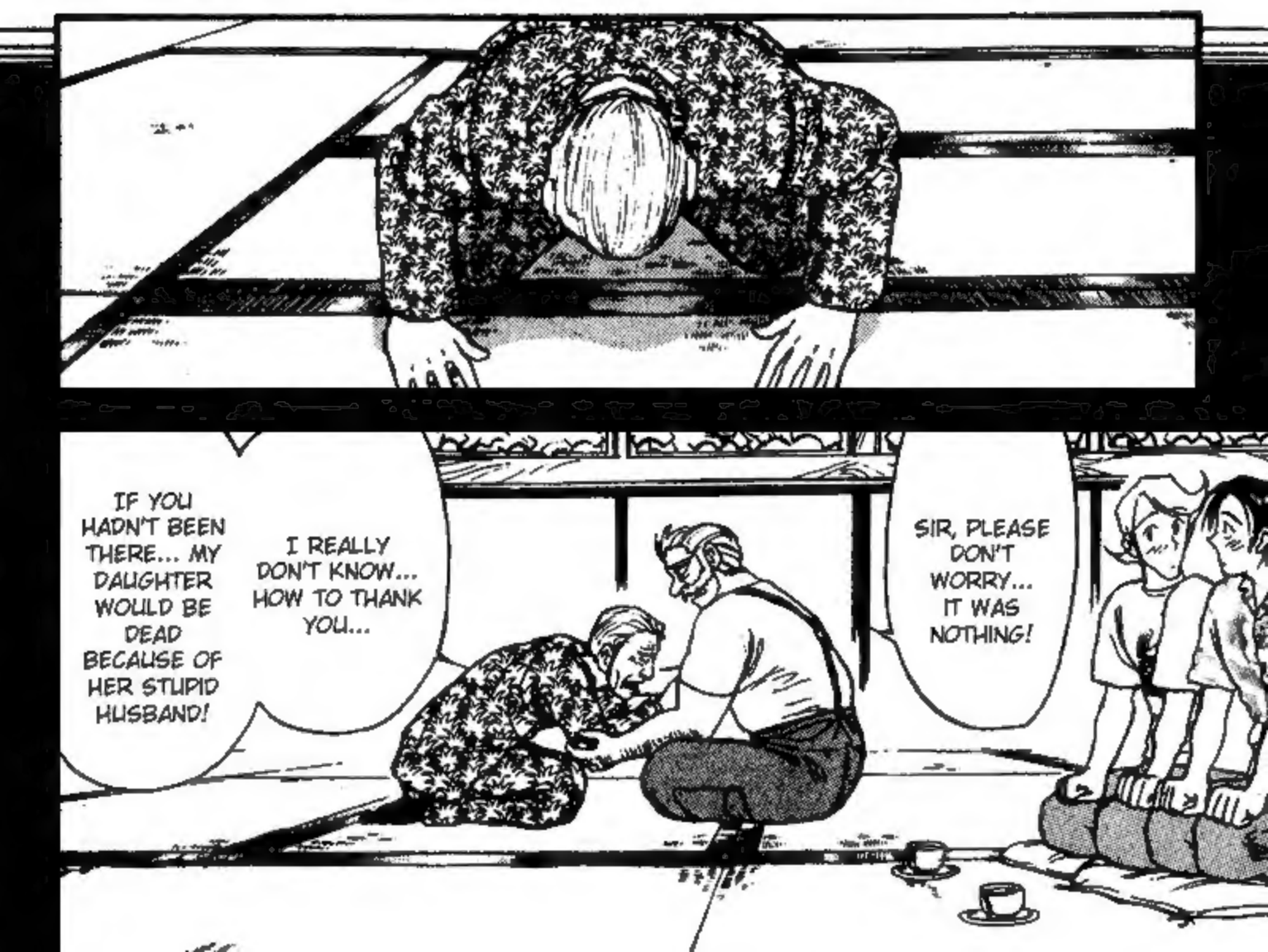
...
YES
...


THIS LADY'S NAME IS FUSAE...
SOMETIMES I CANNOT TELL WHAT MY CHILDREN REALLY WANT.
I MUST NOT BE A VERY GOOD MOTHER...


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! IT WAS MY FATHER WHO GAVE US THE TICKETS FOR THE CIRCUS. ANYWAYS, IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE I TOOK THE CHILDREN TO SEE A NICE SHOW LIKE THIS...
I MUST THANK YOU AGAIN FOR OFFERING US THESE SEATS, MISS... IT'S TOO KIND OF YOU.

HER HUSBAND TRIED TO BLOW THEM BOTH UP...
...BUT THANKS TO HIRO AND NORI'S COURAGE AND SKILL, THEY MANAGED TO SAVE HER!
SHE WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE IN A BOMBING INCIDENT.

WELL... IT'S A CONTINUATION OF THIS UNEXPECTED STORY...
ARE YOU WONDERING WHY WE ARE AT A CIRCUS?


IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE... MY DAUGHTER WOULD BE DEAD BECAUSE OF HER STUPID HUSBAND!
I REALLY DON'T KNOW... HOW TO THANK YOU...
SIR, PLEASE DON'T WORRY... IT WAS NOTHING!

I HEARD HE IS ONE OF THE "NOBLES" OF THE REGION (I'M NOT TOO SURE WHAT THAT MEANS) ...HE INVITED US TO LUNCH.
THIS MAN IS MISS FUSAE'S FATHER. HE WAS VERY GRATEFUL THAT WE SAVED HIS DAUGHTER.
SNIF
IF SOMETHING THAT HORRIBLE HAD HAPPENED...
...MY GRANDCHILDREN SURELY WOULD HAVE BEEN HEARTBROKEN!
WHAT!? YOU'RE ALL CIRCUS PEOPLE!?
NOW I UNDER-STAND!
AND THERE ...
I'M GOING TO HELP YOU!
VERY WELL!
PAF.
IN ORDER TO HAVE ONE, WE HAVE TO BE ON THE CIRCUS UNION LIST. SINCE WE WEREN'T PERFORMING ANYMORE, WE WERE TAKEN OFF THEIR LIST...
YES, BUT NOW, WE DON'T HAVE A TENT ANYMORE. WE'RE A POOR CIRCUS. WE CAN'T DO STREET SHOWS EITHER...

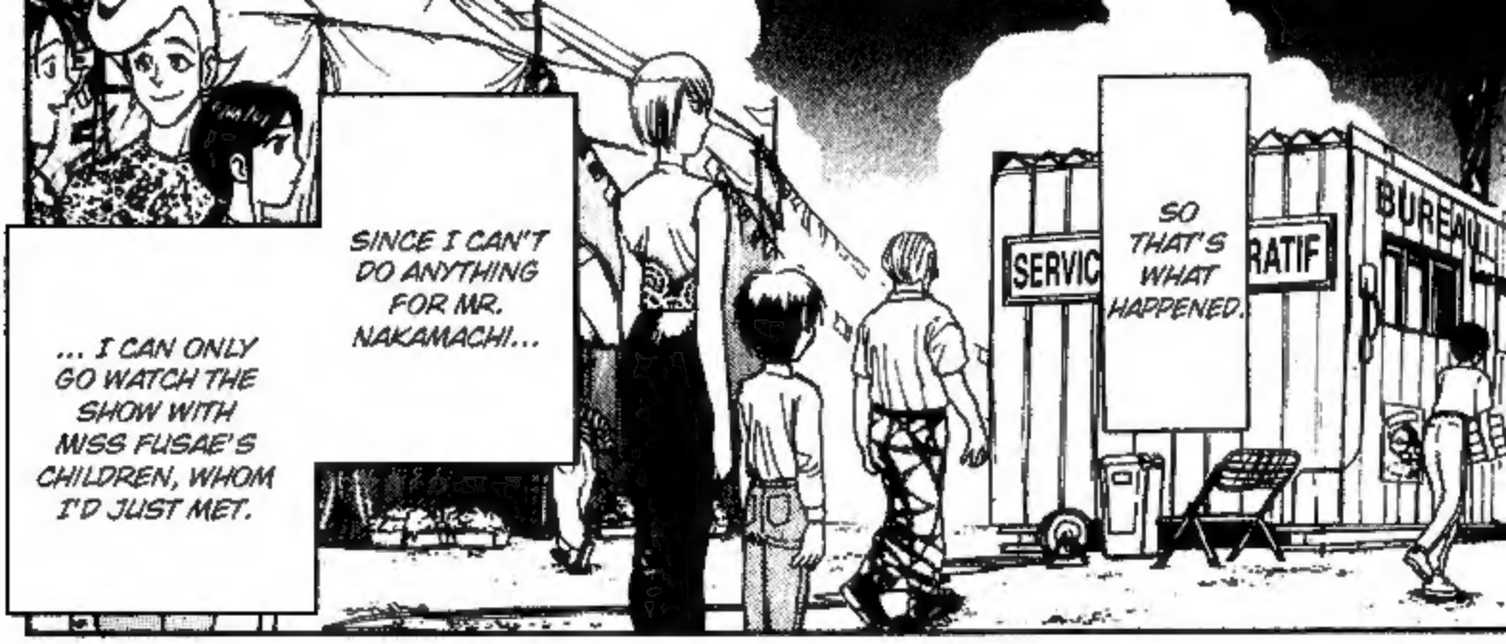
I'M GOING TO HELP YOU GET YOUR SHOW UP IN OUR TOWN!

UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS NOT AS EASY AS WE THOUGHT...

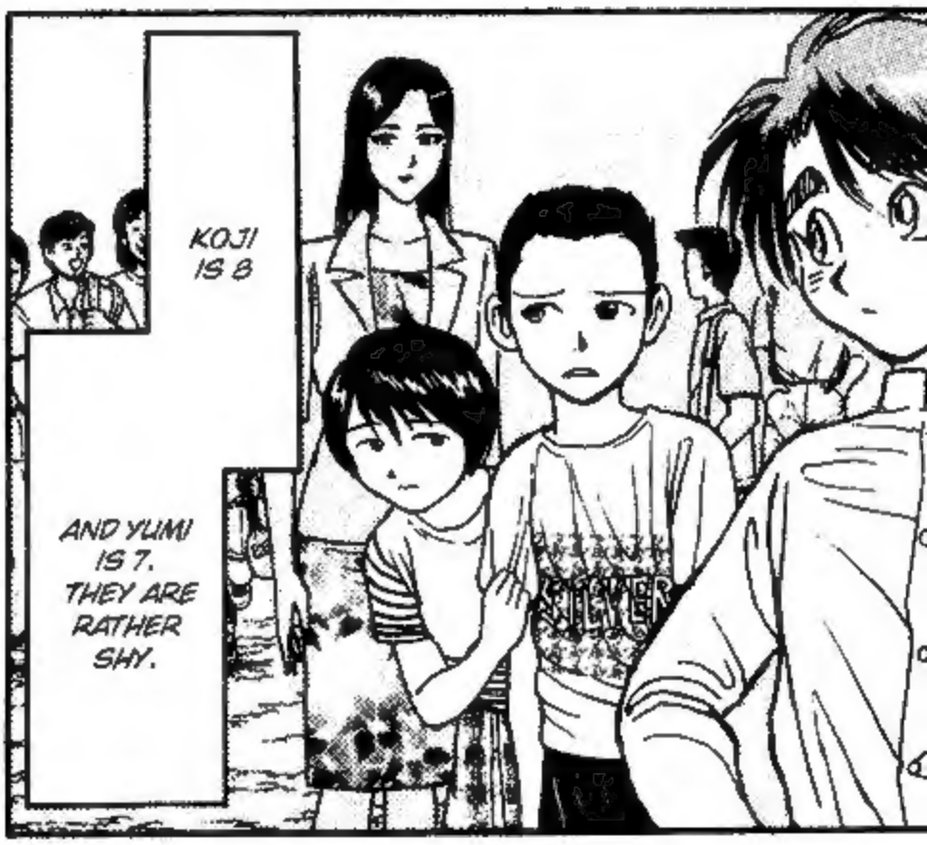
WE HAVE NO TENT, NO LIGHTS AND NO STAGE! HOW CAN WE HAVE A SHOW?

HMMM ...
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

ALL WE HAVE ARE TWO SORRY CHAIRS...
I CAN'T IMAGINE A SHOW WITHOUT EVEN A STAGE, EITHER ...
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE.
Straw Circus
... BUT WE CAN'T DO ANY-THING!
SHOOT! IT'S SO STUPID! WE HAVE A PLACE TO HAVE OUR SHOW...
I ALSO HAVE TICKETS! MISS FUSAE'S DAD GAVE THEM TO US!
THE "STRAW CIRCUS"? WHERE DID YOU GET THIS FLYER?
A BIG CIRCUS LIKE THIS MUST COST A LOT OF MONEY...
OBVIOUSLY, IN ORDER TO PUT UP A SHOW, WE REALLY NEED A LOT OF MATERIALS!
I'M GONNA GO ASK HIM TO LEND US SOME MATERIALS ...
...I WORKED WITH MITSU'USHI, THE BOSS OF THIS CIRCUS.
A LONG TIME AGO...


... I CAN ONLY GO WATCH THE SHOW WITH MISS FUSAE'S CHILDREN, WHOM I'D JUST MET.
SINCE I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR MR. NAKAMACHI...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
SERVIC
RATIF
BUREAU

DO YOU WANT TO DRINK SOMETHING, KOJI? AND YOU, YUMI, DO YOU LIKE POPCORN?


KOJI IS 8
AND YUMI IS 7. THEY ARE RATHER SHY.

HERE, YUMI. I HAVE STRAW-BERRY CANDIES!

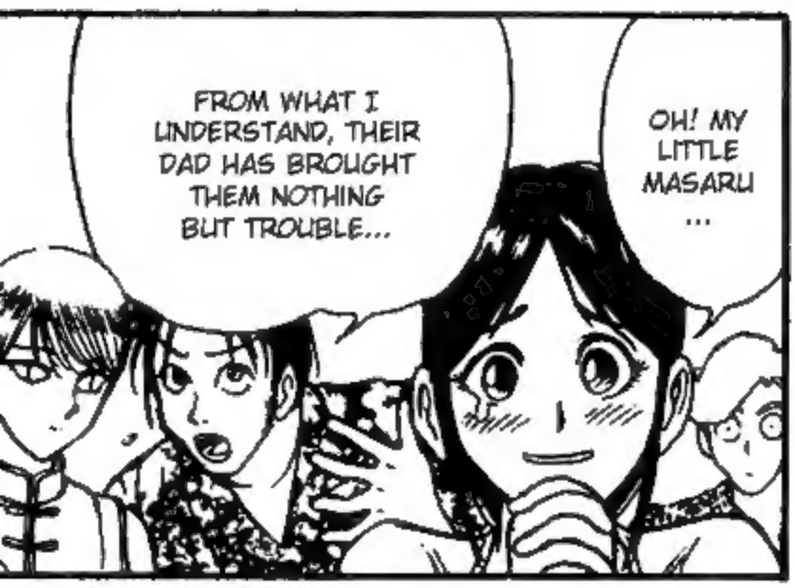
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALRIGHT! IT MAY BE BETTER NOT TO DRINK ANYTHING NOW. WE MIGHT NEED TO GO PEE DURING THE SHOW!
COME NOW, CHILDREN! IT'S OKAY TO ACCEPT WHAT MASARU IS SO KINDLY OFFERING!

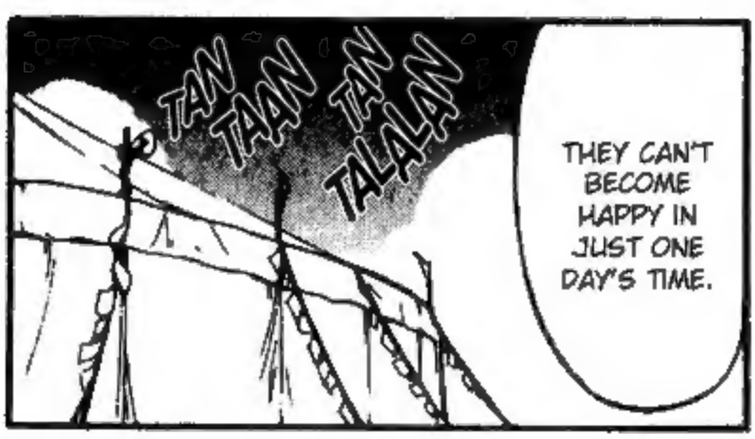
NO... THANK YOU...
...

HER CHILDREN HAVE TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL ...
...AND YOUNG MASTER FINDS IT VERY SAD.

MISS FUSAE HAS TO MOVE...
...BECAUSE OF HER EX-HUSBAND!
IT'S SO VERY LIKE HIM!
MASARU IS TRYING REAL HARD TO PUT THEM AT EASE...

...IS NO FUN!
CHANGING SCHOOLS ...


FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THEIR DAD HAS BROUGHT THEM NOTHING BUT TROUBLE...
OH! MY LITTLE MASARU ...

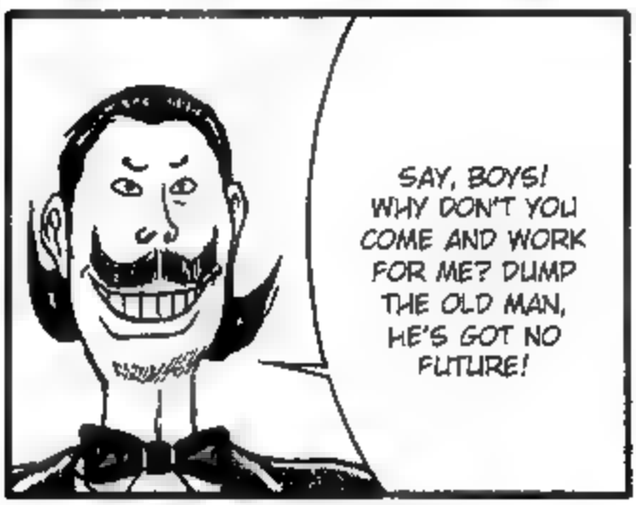

TAN TAAN TAN TALALAN
THEY CAN'T BECOME HAPPY IN JUST ONE DAY'S TIME.

SHIRO-GANE...
...I'D LIKE TO MAKE THEM SMILE AGAIN!

I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM SMILE...
HERE YOU GO! I'VE GOT SAUSAGES FOR YOU!
THEY WERE RIGHT!
...THAT EVERY TIME SHE AND HER EX-HUSBAND ARGUED, KOJI WOULD CALM THE SOBBING YUMI.
MISS FUSAE TOLD ME, IN TEARS...
IT WOULD BE NORMAL IF I COULDN'T MAKE THEM FIND SOME MEASURE OF HAPPINESS AGAIN...

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
WE HAVE OUR OWN SHOWS TO PUT TOGETHER, TOO!
HEY! MR. NAKAMACHI FOUND THE BOSS OF THIS CIRCUS!
BUREA
I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
ANYWAYS, I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU STILL WISH TO STAY IN THE CIRCUS WORLD!
I UNDER-STAND, BUT...
...JUST A LIGHTING RAMP, OR A COUPLE OF POLES FOR ATTACHING WIRES, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE US AT LEAST THAT MUCH!
I CAN'T LEND YOU ANYTHING!
THIS IS NOT YOUR FIRST FLOP...
PLUS, NOBODY WILL WANT TO WORK WITH YOU!
FOLLOW MY ADVICE AND GIVE IT UP!
A "STONE EATER"... CHANGED INTO AN "OGRE"!
M?

WHAT LIES?
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
NORI, HIRO! THAT'S ENOUGH!
STILL, YOU ACCUSE OUR BOSS OF...
STOP WITH THE LIES ALREADY !!!


SAY, BOYS! WHY DON'T YOU COME AND WORK FOR ME? DUMP THE OLD MAN, HE'S GOT NO FUTURE!

IT'S ALRIGHT... ANYWAY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE TO ASK FOR HELP ...
BUT, BOSS!

I AM DEEPLY SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED ...
ARE YOU COMING BACK TO THE CIRCUS, SHIRO-GANE?!

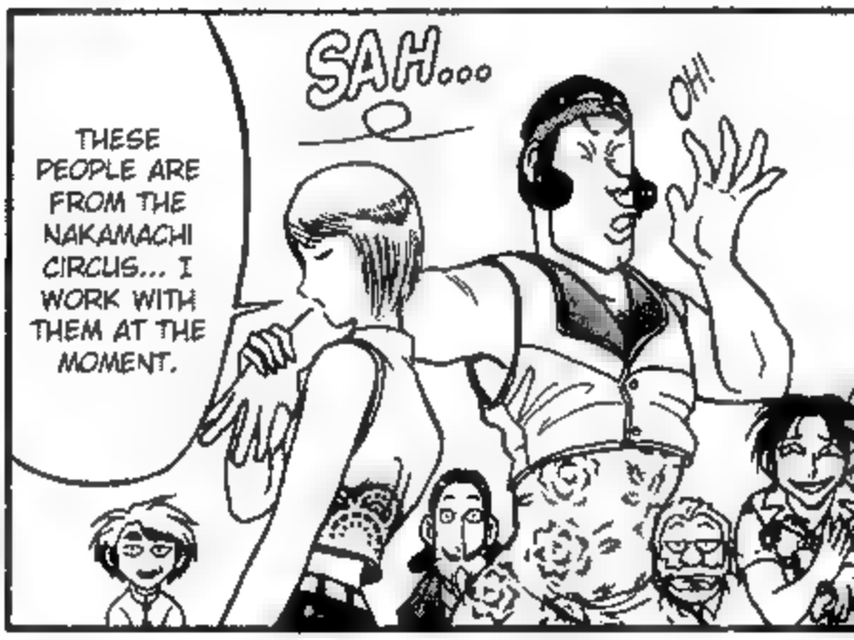
GRRRR !!!

OH! THAT'S ...

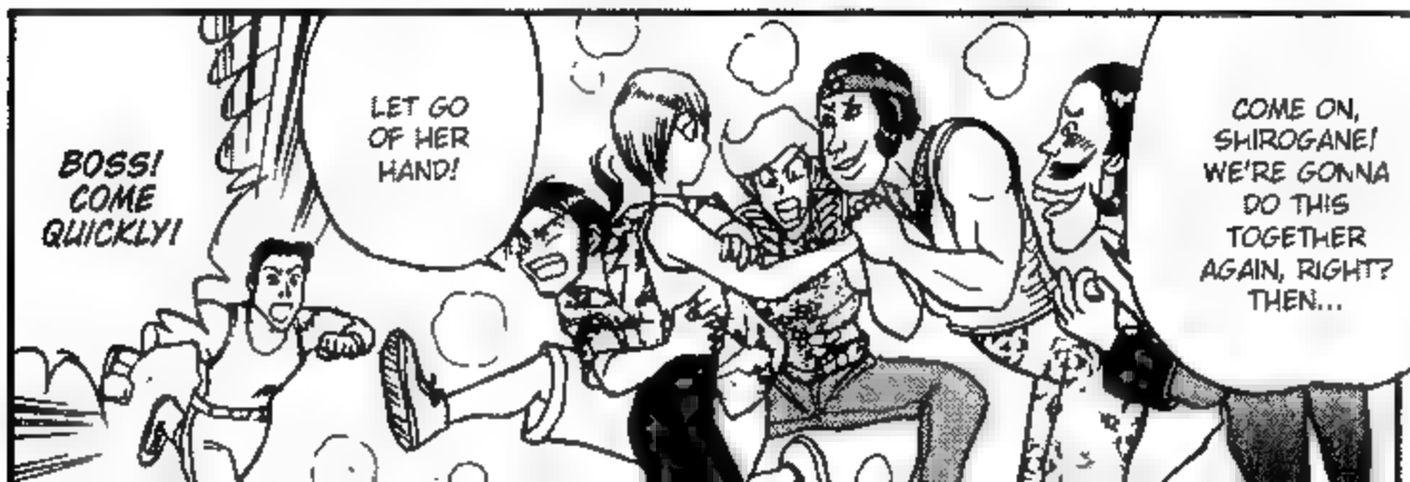
THAT'S RIGHT! IT WAS THIS CIRCUS! IT WAS IN THIS TENT THAT I MET SHIRO-GANE FOR THE FIRST TIME!
HUH?
SHIRO-GANE... YOU'VE WORKED IN THIS CIRCUS!?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
UM... IN TRUTH...
NO PROBLEM! IT'S NOTHING! I'M SO GLAD YOU CHOSE TO COME BACK TO US! NAOTA! COME HERE!
I AM SORRY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, MY LITTLE SHIROGANE? THE DAY THAT TRAIN CRASHED INTO OUR TENT...
...YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED!
HAHAHA!!!
AH...
WHAT IS IT, DAD?
CLAC
BOOM
MY BELOVED SHIROGANE! YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO COME BACK AND WORK WITH ME?!

GRR OOAH!!
HUH? AND THERE'S HIRO AND NORI.
HEY!!! YOU DISGUSTING PIG!
GET AWAY FROM SHIROGANE!

HAHAHA!!! NO, YOU MORON!!!
BUT... SHIROGANE! YOU DIDN'T COME BACK TO WORK WITH US?!


THESE PEOPLE ARE FROM THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS... I WORK WITH THEM AT THE MOMENT.
SAHooo
OH!

YOUR ACROBATICS NUMBER WITH NAOTA WAS A CIRCUS FAVORITE! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
SHIROGANE... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

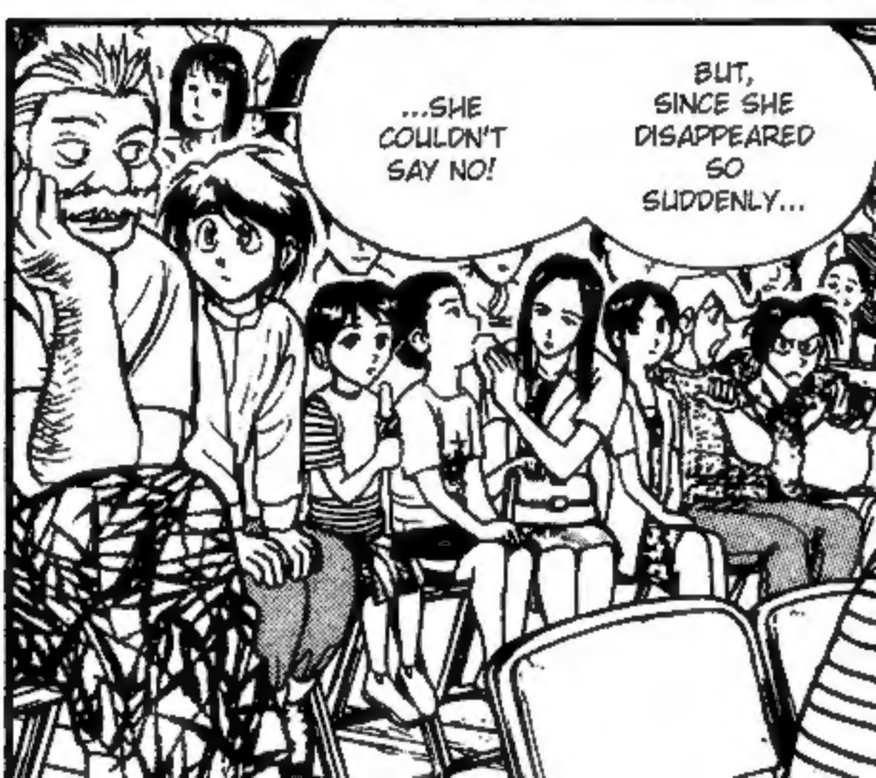

BOSS! COME QUICKLY!
LET GO OF HER HAND!
COME ON, SHIROGANE! WE'RE GONNA DO THIS TOGETHER AGAIN, RIGHT? THEN...

IT'S THE LUNCH THEY HAD...
THE CLOWNS AND ACROBATS ARE DOUBLED OVER IN PAIN!
SOME OF THE PERFORMERS ARE SICK! I THINK IT'S FOOD POISONING!
DON'T RUN! THE SPECTATORS WILL WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON!
?
BUT... WHAT ABOUT MY ACROBATICS NUMBER, THEN?!
WHAAAAAAAAA!?!
ZZAAN
GLING

THE SHOW STARTS IN 15 MINUTES ...
...SHIRO-GANE, WE BEG YOU!

BLA BLA
...EVEN FOR SHIRO-GANE.
IT'S NOT GONNA BE EASY...

YEAH. WHAT I'M MOST WORRIED ABOUT IS THAT STUPID NAOTA WHO'S PROBABLY GONNA TRY TO FEEL HER UP!
FOR HER NUMBER, I'M SURE SHE'LL DO VERY WELL!


...SHE COULDN'T SAY NO!
BUT, SINCE SHE DISAPPEARED SO SUDDENLY...

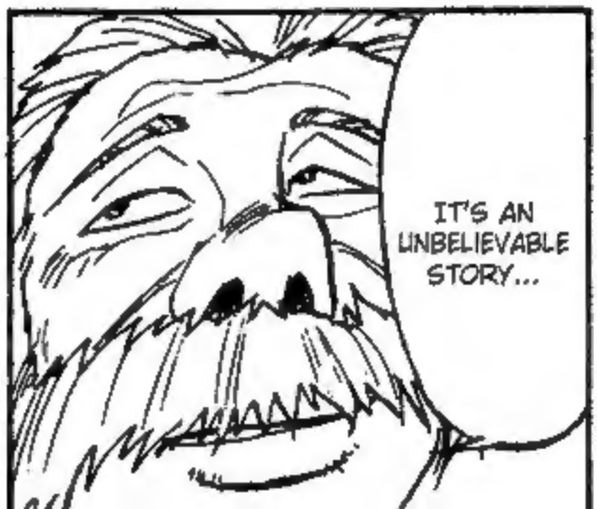
IT'S THE FIRST TIME SHE'S TALKED TO ME!
YES? WHAT IS IT, YUMI?
ARE WE GOING TO SEE SHIRO-GANE?
ZOW
YOU, TOO, KOJI! WATCH HER CAREFULLY!
YES! WATCH FOR HER, BECAUSE SHE'S AN EXTRAORDINARY ARTIST!
UMM... MAYBE THERE ISN'T THAT MUCH TO GET EXCITED ABOUT...
SAY, MR. NAKA-MACHI ...
HMM...

TON
THAT'S MINE!
GIVE ME THAT!
SAH
SORRY!
CLAC

IN THE END, YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT IT SOONER OR LATER... SO I'D RATHER TELL YOU MYSELF.

YES!
SHIRO-GANE, ARE YOU READY?

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU HOW AND WHY THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS WENT UNDER...


IT'S AN UNBELIEVABLE STORY...